

The time required for the excretion of the arsenic administered intravenously is about three or four days, which is shorter than that after a subcutaneous or intramuscular injection. Indeed, after an intramuscular injection an arsenic deposit may form, which may not be absorbed for several weeks, a feature which is made use of by some physicians who advocate an intravenous injection, followed after two or three days by an intramuscular injection.

The writer's personal experience in the administration of salvarsan has only been with the subcutaneous and intravenous methods. In subcutaneous injections a perfectly neutral mixture of the base in suspension was used. After the injections the patients complained of pain and stiffness in the part, but the distress was not so severe as to require an opiate. All the local symptoms disappeared in from one to two weeks. The intravenous injections were made with an alkaline solution. These were carried out without causing the least pain, except in one case, in which, during the administration of the drug a small quantity was injected into the tissues around the vein, causing considerable inflammation and pain in the part. From this experience, and also from information obtained from physicians and medical literature, I should judge that either the subcutaneous or intramuscular injection of an alkaline solution of salvarsan would cause a good deal of suffering.

*(To be continued.)*